

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action dated November 1, 2006, the Examiner rejected claims 1-8, 10-12, 14, and 16-24 on prior art grounds. Claims 9, 13, and 15 were objected to as being dependent on rejected base claims, but were deemed to include allowable subject matter if rewritten in independent form.

To expedite allowance of this application, claims 1-3 and 16-24 have been canceled without prejudice to the Applicant's right to present these claims in a continuation application. Claim 4 has been amended to include subject matter deemed allowable by the Examiner. Several editorial amendments have been made to claims 5, 6, and 12 - 15. Additionally, new claims 25-35 have been added to the application and likewise include subject matter deemed allowable by the Examiner. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

If for any reason the Examiner believes that a telephone interview would be helpful to resolve any remaining issues, he/she is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert B. Polit
Registration No. 33,993
Attorney for Applicant
BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. BOX 10395
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610
(312) 321-4200